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The following is a translation of the leading articles of the issues of 25 and 26 Aug 48, in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich, Switzerland.

1. "Owing to the international situation, the general staff of the Red Army has accelerated its military preparations in the last few weeks. These preparations have been going on for some time already. Notwithstanding press dispatches to the contrary, the center of gravity of these preventive measures is not located in Eastern Germany; rather, they are centered in the area west of Kiev. Work on the ring of defenses there has been advanced. The defense line, built deep into the earth and connected by barbed wire, runs from Minitza through Seraitchev and Zhitomir in the direction of Rovno, and continues to the Baltic Sea in the north and the Carpathian mountains in the south. In the section between Minitza and Rovno the line is especially strong.
2. "A large number of motorized infantry divisions and armored divisions are concentrated in this area, and they receive reinforcements daily. Many military trains are located at the railroad terminals in that area. Especially noticeable by their number are numbers of armored units; their uniforms may be seen everywhere. Often small villages and towns have been chosen to serve as depots for troops and material. Depots of material, and distribution centers were established in some localities which were located in front of the Minitza-Rovno line. Among these, Kamenez-Podolsk is especially important. This is located on a "military-geographic turntable" which can be turned either in the direction of Poland, Czechoslovakia or Rumania, as needed. At this point, the existing buildings are increased so as to be able to serve as barracks for an entire army. The flying field at Lemberg in Poland is an important distribution center for the Russian air force.
3. "In order to be fully informed about the Russian plans concerning land war, several innovations are of great importance. The general staff ordered them since 1945 and since then they have been followed out in the greatest possible degree. One of the most important of these innovations is a very extensive switch from the rifle to the sub-machine gun for infantry, extending through industrial production as well as the mass education of infantry in its use. A truly gigantic program of mass-production of sub-machine guns has been well started; this program covers the demand, and the production of barrels is 15-20% ahead of demand; accordingly, in the yards of factories whole mountains of surplus material may be seen. The sub-machine gun is simple in construction, so even, infantryman may be able to use it. Further-

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more, it is very impervious to extreme cold and dirt. Of course, every Russian company will retain a squad of snipers using the rifle, but mass use of sub-machine guns represents an innovation.

4. "In the heavy-arms category, conventional artillery is partly giving way to such innovations as the mortar. Conventional artillery, first is available in generous amounts, secondly no possible innovations can be thought of any more, and thirdly it is more expensive in use and production than is the mortar, needs more and stronger means of transportation, and is less easily concealed from air attack. A full-scale development program for mortars has been begun in the factories. For all practical intents and purposes, since May of 1945, Russian factories have only constructed mortars, anti-tank and aircraft guns, guns for use in tanks, and rocket guns. The Russians are building rocket launchers in the following calibers: 32 mm, 120 mm, as well as 100 to 200mm. Shooting tactics of these launchers is of the shotgun type, that is to say, massed flights of rocket over a flat trajectory.
5. "Concerning motorization, the tendency has been to build no complicated equipment, but rather to concentrate on simple products - "Fool-proof materiel, usable even by grandmothers", as an officer of the Russian General Staff expressed it lately. The products of the Russian automobile industry are basically simple and partly, especially in view of Russian terrain conditions, more capable of long life than were the American trucks and jeeps delivered under lend-lease. The tractor industry delivers solely tractors with caterpillar treads, and none whatever with wheels, so that sufficient tractors for heavy weapons may be had.
6. "Development is rapidly progressing in the field of the armored cars. Three new ones have recently been built, supplementing the nineteen others previously existing. The most interesting is operating in Kirovo, where special armor plates are produced. Two miles to the south of Leninsk in the West Siberian Kuznez Basin there is located a mine called "Novaja", a special type of coal is produced and transported to Kirovo. There it is subjected to chemical analysis and then processed by special processes. The only place in Russia where this coal is found is in the "Novaja" mine. It is a relatively small forwarding center, guarded by the army. All happenings in Novaja and Kirovo are guarded by a heavy military curtain of secrecy. Leninsk, a city of 200,000 inhabitants serving also as a deportation center for prisoners, has been completely changed by new buildings during the last three years. The 21st armor works are working around the clock in three shifts at Saratov on the Volga River. Also, a proving ground for armor is found at that location. Plant #22 is located in Dnepropetrovsk, to wit, on the banks of the Dnieper River between the city and the suburb called Usl. This factory is tooled for the production of smaller armored cars, of tank treads, as well as for repairs. Russia abandoned riveted tanks immediately after the border incidents with the Japanese in the 1930's. It was found that when a tank was hit, the rivets had the same effect on the crew of the tank as had shell fragments. In contrast with Germany, during the late war Russia completely converted from cast to stamped armor plates; welding supplanted riveting. The Russian steel works are unsurpassed in their techniques of making sharp corners in very thick armor plates, a feat at which the whole German steel industry worked during the war, but failed to achieve. There are many things which can be criticized about the Russian collective economy, but at this point it stands all scrutiny.
7. "All innovations cannot conceal the fact that Russia does not like to be constantly experimenting with new types in its armored corps. They are much more occupied in improving their old models. The "Joseph Stalin" tank, whose present third model weighs 70 tons, including fuel, ammunition and crew, is nothing but an improvement on the old war tank, K. 65. The simplicity of the Russian tank is unquestionably adapted to the mentality of the crew. It is also in line with this mentality that the chief engineer of the Autounion plants in Chemnitz, Germany, has been ordered to complete his assignment dating from the war. This assignment was that in place of the former multi-

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gear differentials in tanks, a new differential be developed with automatic shifting. This "circular differential" is to be interchangeable with the differentials hitherto installed on tanks, since it is to be built with the same external measurement and is installed with the same screws. This would mean a great reduction of the duties of the tank driver, because hitherto a huge number of shifts were present on most tanks; also, tank training would be made a great deal easier. However, an obvious weakness in the armored program is constituted by transportation, because it is often observable that finished tanks often stand around the open factory yards for weeks, until they are shipped away, rusty by that time.

8. "The real "Iron Curtain" is not located along the Lubock-Trieste line, but rather west of the Ukrainian capital Kiev. Can the defense line west of Kiev be closed in case of offensives? This can only be understood conditionally, that is, with strategic limitations. The original Russian plan by the general staff envisaged a fairly rapid loss of the European continent by the Western powers, with the exception of the two "unsinkable aircraft carriers, England and Spain, and possibly southern Italy. The second phase as the Russians envisage it consists of a war of air destruction of the Russian industries; and finally, an offensive by the Western Allies through the Near East through southern Russia, with North Africa as supply base; this would bring the Allies according to the Russian view dangerously close to the defensive square of Baku-Turinsk-Stalinsk-Stalinabad, necessitating in turn a collapse of the European front of the Russians. On account of this, Russian attention was recently directed on the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East in first line.
9. "The strong position of the West in Greece, Turkey and Iran was a practical justification of the Russian analysis, and therefore the Russian military measures during the fighting for Northern Iran in 1946 were much more extensive, than we had then assumed.
10. "Since some months ago, the Russians have been ascertaining that the Western European general staffs have tried to bring the hesitant Americans to the point of deciding not to liberate Europe once it has been occupied, but to defend it from the beginning. In their endeavor they have evidently found some measure of success. The Russians also are fairly well informed that the American preparation for air war in Libya and southern Germany transcends officially admitted limits, and they suspect the War Department in Washington for using the Berlin crisis as a cover behind which military measures may better be undertaken. Accordingly, they do not wish to start the war with the better military men and equipment which is being concentrated behind the Winnitza-Dnaburg line, that means in the three military districts of Odessa, Simferopol and Baku at this moment; rather they wish to start their work in West Europe first with their Eastern European satellites in cooperation with their troops in Eastern Germany. Aside from the fact that the Russian military tradition has always been to use their worst troops first and their best troops last, such a procedure would also offer the possibility to test the effect of mass-destruction weapons of the enemy against troops and transportation. The military unit in Eastern Germany are now approximately one-eleventh of the total Russian forces, and their total loss would be a bearable one.
11. "The amount of Russians under arms is now approximately four millions, divided into six army groups. There can be no question of a supposed demobilization. Probably the older soldiers have been discharged, but in their stead younger ones have been drafted. In many villages there are only thirty men left with five to six hundred women.
12. "Among the European satellite armies, the Czechoslovakian army has been weakened through forced pensions and political deserters to such an extent, that it, as the Yugoslav Army, has had to be removed from the Russian plans. The conflict between the Go. Informa and Tito, is of course, an exceedingly serious one.

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In order to be made secure against Russian surprises from the area between Temosvar and Subotica in the form of an attack with its center of gravity in Brad, since the fifteenth of June transports with armor and artillery leave Belgrade every night, taking the route through Panevo in the direction of Novisad. During the daytime, the empty railroad cars go back to Belgrade.

13. "However, the situation is tense not only along the Yugoslav-Rumania border, but reports tell of heightened Yugoslav activity in the area of Skoplje in the direction of Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav Army, divided into six armies with command posts in Zagreb, Fiume, Novisad, Sarajevo, etc., owns old Skoda 105 mm. cannons, in the field of infantry a good many Russian sub-machine guns and German rifles, and in the field of armor old Russian T-34 tanks and even some of the still older T 26's. Motorization, however, is relatively good. There are plenty of German trucks of five-ton capacity, further Czech-Skoda cars and the three-ton type "Praha", built at the Lizenz plants at Belgrade.
14. "The majority of the officers stationed in Russia is convinced of the necessity of war with the West. Especially the younger officers are convinced of the outcome. However, the officers in Germany are very much more conservative in their decisions. Especially the officers of junior and field grade are very much more careful in their judgment, and obey orders from higher quarters with a certain hesitation, which hesitation signifies their thoughts over their personal future. As a matter of fact, the staff of the occupation army is much troubled about the loosening of proletarian discipline. Especially "painful" was the fraternization which occurred impulsively at the end of June in Polish railroad terminals. At that time, Russian troops trains on their way home met trains bringing German prisoners of war home. The Russians overwhelmed the prisoners with food and showed their feelings of friendship. The completely surprised Germans did not know what was happening to them. In connection with the frequent desertions and other "re-insurance measures" have induced the leaders of the Red Army to accelerate. Married individuals are especially hard hit by this when they have to return to Russia (at which time they will take as much as possible in the way of clothes, silver, etc., with them.) Non-married people are put into special schools, at the completion of which they are reassigned to occupation duty. In these schools they are made familiar with the bases of the German language, as well as being tested on military attitude and "anti-Capitalist reliability."
15. "The civilian population of Russia is relatively quiet and reassured in the face of the international situation. The supply of civilian consumption goods, as well as the real income, have gone up somewhat since the issue of the new ruble. It would be foolish not to recognize it; but as always the principle of the differentiation of rewards for labor is valid also in the Russian collective economy. More exactly, it rests on the differing degree of satisfaction of man's physical needs. In the larger factories there exist five different canteens, differentiated from labor to manager. The motor supplying the power of Russian exertion is the differentiated satisfaction of hunger."

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